

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An interactive notification system for providing notification of a crisis to users of the system, said system comprising:

a server programmed to send notification of a crisis to a user of the system via communication devices preselected by the user;

a database connected to said server for storing information identifying the users of the system and the respective communication devices that each user has preselected to effect said notification of a crisis;

wherein said server facilitates remote registration and entry of data from each of said users to said database.

2. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the users are categorized into groups and said server is further programmed to disseminate information to specific ones of said groups in accordance with the content of the information.

3. A system as claimed in claim 2, wherein each of the users preselect different communication devices for crisis notification and dissemination of information.

4. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said communication devices comprise at least one of telephones, pagers, cell phones, PDAs, facsimile machines and computers.

5. A system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said communication devices comprise at least one of telephones, pagers, cell phones, PDAs, facsimile machines and computers.

6. A system as claimed in claim 3, wherein said communication devices comprise at least one of telephones, pagers, cell phones, PDAs, facsimile machines and computers.

7. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said notification of a crisis includes basic information regarding at least one of the events, a description of the current situation, what the notified users should expect, and instructions on what the notified users should do and not do.

8. A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the system determines a Head of Household for each household using the system, and only allows the Head of Household to enter data into the system.

9. A system as claimed in claim 2 wherein the system determines a Head of Household for each household using the system, and only allows the Head of Household to enter data into the system.

10. A system as claimed in claim 8, wherein the Head of Household can add an additional Head of Household to the system so that said additional Head of Household can enter data into the system.

11. A system as claimed in claim 9, wherein the Head of Household can add an additional Head of Household to the system so that said additional Head of Household can enter data into the system.

12. A system as claimed in claim 8 wherein the Head of Household registers with the system a list of persons who can take custody of a child, during a crisis alert, previously registered by the Head of Household with the system:

13. A system as claimed in claim 12, wherein after notification of a crisis, the Head of Household is given a specific amount of time to update, by adding or deleting, the list of persons.

14. A system as claimed in claim 13, wherein said specific amount of time is 30 minutes.

15. A system as claimed in claim 8, wherein the system categorizes the severity of the crisis for which notification is sent to user.

16. A system as claimed in claim 15, wherein the Head of Household can designate different persons to receive notification of the crisis in accordance with the categorization of the crisis.

17. A system as claimed in claim 2, wherein an Administrator of the system creates said groups and determines the information that is disseminated to each of said groups.

18. A system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the Administrator delegates to a respective leader of each one of said groups the determination of the information that is disseminated to the corresponding group.

19. A method of providing notification of a crisis to users of a notification system that includes a server and database for storing data about the users, said method comprising:

registering the users of the system by providing access to the server and database to each of said users; and

sending a notification of a crisis to each of the registered users via communication devices preselected by each of the registered users.

20. A method as claimed in claim 19, further comprising categorizing the users into groups and disseminating information to specific ones of said groups in accordance with the content of the information.

21. A method as claimed in claim 20, wherein each of the users preselects different communication devices for crises notification and dissemination of information.

22. A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the communication devices comprise at least one of telephones, pagers, cell phones, PDAs, facsimile machines and computers.

23. A method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the communication devices comprise at least one of telephones, pagers, cell phones, PDAs, facsimile machines and computers.

24. A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the communication devices comprise at least one of telephones, pagers, cell phones, PDAs, facsimile machines and computers.

25. A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein said notification of a crisis includes basic information regarding at least one of the events, a description of the current situation, what the notified users should expect, and instructions on what the notified users should do and not do.

26. A method as claimed in claim 19, further comprising designating a Head of Household in each household of users and only allowing the Head of Household to enter data into the system.

27. A method as claimed in claim 20, further comprising designating a Head of Household in each household of users and only allowing the Head of Household to enter data into the system.

28. A method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the Head of Household can add an additional Head of Household so that said additional Head of Household can enter data into the system.

29. A method as claimed in claim 27, wherein the Head of Household can add an additional Head of Household so that said additional Head of Household can enter data into the system.

30. A method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the Head of Household registers with the system a list of persons who can take custody of a child, during a crisis alert, previously registered by the Head of Household with the system.

31. A method as claimed in claim 30, wherein after notification of a crisis, the Head of Household is given a specific amount of time to update, by adding or deleting, the list of persons.

32. A method as claimed in claim 31 wherein said specific amount of time is 30 minutes.

33. A method as claimed in claim 26, further including categorizing the severity of the crisis for which notification is sent to the Head of Household.

34. A method as claimed in claim 33, wherein the Head of Household designates persons to receive notification of the crisis in accordance with the categorization of the crisis.

35. A method as claimed in claim 20, wherein an Administrator of the system creates said groups and determines the information that is disseminated to each of said groups.

36. A method as claimed in claim 35, wherein the Administrator delegates to a respective leader of each one of said groups the determination of the information that is disseminated to the corresponding group.

37. A system as claimed in claim 8 wherein said Head of Household enters and controls family relationship data including children records, family records, family relationships, and custody control of children.

38. A system as claimed in claim 37 wherein said Head of Household delegates the entering and control of said family relationship data to an additional person.

39. A method as claimed in claim 26 wherein said Head of Household enters and controls family relationship data including children records, family records, family relationships, and custody control of children.

40. A method as claimed in claim 39, wherein said Head of Household delegates the entering and control of said family relationship data to an additional person.

41. A system as in claim 2, wherein an Administrator creates groups of users, and determines a level of importance for the crisis or information to be disseminated to said groups of users, and communicates the crisis or information in accordance with the level of importance and the communication devices preselected by said users.

42. A system as in claim 41 wherein all communication devices preselected by each user are utilized for a crisis having the highest level of importance.

43. A method as in claim 20, wherein an Administrator creates groups of users, and determines a level of importance for the crisis or information to be disseminated to said groups of users, and communicates the crisis or information in accordance with the level of importance and the communication devices preselected by said users.

44. A method as in claim 43, wherein all communication devices preselected by each user are utilized for a crisis having the highest level of importance.

45. A system as in claim 2, wherein a Head of Household preselects all communication devices to be used for receiving notification of a crisis and dissemination of information.

46. A system as in claim 45, wherein the Head of Household determines which preselected communication will receive notification of a crisis and dissemination of information based on level of importance of the crisis and information.

47. A method as in claim 20, wherein a Head of Household preselects all communication devices to be used for receiving notification of a crisis and dissemination of information.

48. A method as in claim 47 wherein the Head of Household determines which preselected communication will receive notification of a crisis and dissemination of information based on level of importance of the crisis and information.